

Congresswoman **JAN Schakowsky**

View from the Hill



SEPTEMBER 2001 • VOLUME 3 **REPORT TO ILLINOIS' 9TH DISTRICT**

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My district staff and I are ready to assist you in any way we can. If you are having problems with your Social Security, veterans' benefits, Medicare, immigration status or postal issues or have questions about federal grants, please contact one of my Chicagoland offices.

I N S I D E

9TH DISTRICT, ILLINOIS

Protecting Our Rights and Freedoms

- Making Every Vote Count
- Reproductive Freedoms Under Fire

Fighting for Consumers and Public Health

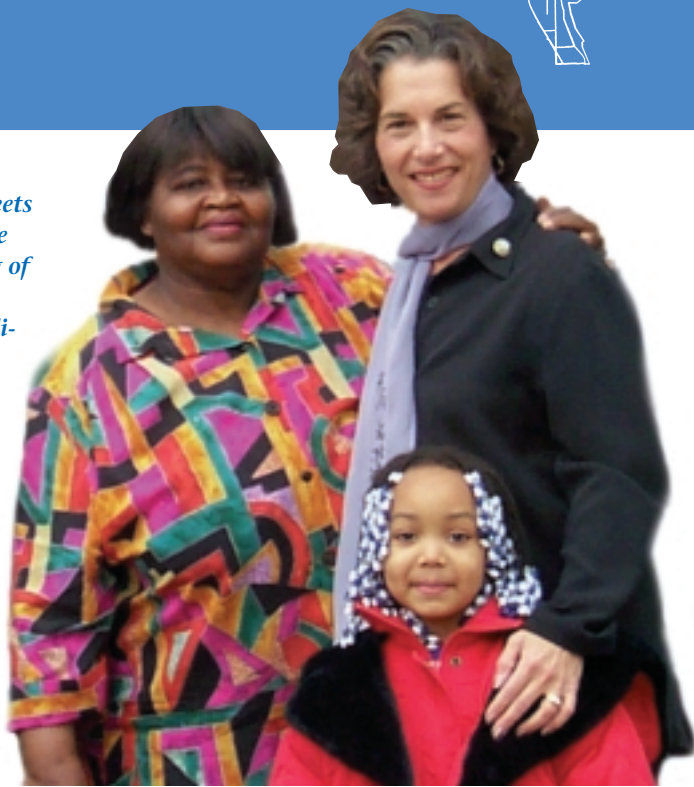
- Battling Big Oil for Affordable Energy
- Keeping our Children Healthy and Safe

Putting Our Family Needs First

- First Things First
- Undoing the Damage



Congresswoman Schakowsky meets with Rose Green and grand-niece Amber Blayd during the opening of the Morse Senior Apartments in Rogers Park. This newly-rehabilitated building has 55 units of affordable senior rental housing, and was developed in partnership with Urban Residential and Rogers Park Development Corporation with funding from HUD. It is a much-needed addition to our community, which is facing a housing crisis. Ms. Green is among the first residents.





Protecting Our Rights and Freedoms

CONGRESSWOMAN SCHAKOWSKY

Making Every Vote Count

Over 250 people attended a Democratic Caucus Special Committee on Election Reform hearing at Loyola University on May 19 to give their views on reforming the election process. I am a Vice Chair of the Committee, which will make legislative recommendations this fall in areas such as provisional voting, voter identification, and purging of voter lists.

Last November, two and a half million ballots were never counted, including 123,000 in Chicago. That's why I strongly believe the federal government must expand current election law and set national voting standards. I introduced H.R. 1004, the Provisional Voting Rights Act of 2001 to guarantee that every registered voter can cast their ballot and are not disqualified because of mistakes on the voting lists. We must bring our election system into the 21st Century and make sure that no voter is discriminated against or shut out of the democratic process.



Jan and Election Committee Chair Maxine Waters at Chicago public forum on election reform—one of many held across the country.

Reproductive Freedom Under Fire

A woman's right to choose has been under fire at home and abroad. To prevent further erosion of women's rights to reproductive choice as guaranteed by *Roe v. Wade*, I will work to:

- Reverse President Bush's Executive Order that cuts funding for organizations that provide life-saving family planning services to the world's poorest women by passing H.R. 755, the Global Democracy Promotions Act.
- Ensure that women and their doctors have access to safe and legal medicine such as mifepristone (RU 486).

Congressional Survey *I want your opinion*

Transportation

Would you support a regional plan for ending flight delays and expanding airport capacity that includes (select one or more options):

- A. Reconfiguring runways and adding one runway at O'Hare International Airport
- B. Building a new airport at Peotone
- C. Utilizing Gary, Rockford, and Du Page airports
- D. High-speed rail

Respondent #1 | Respondent #2

A	B	A	B
C	D	C	D

College Loans

In 1976, a Pell Grant paid for 84% of the cost of public college. Today, it covers only 39%. Do you support doubling Pell Grants (up to \$7,000) for eligible students?

Yes	No	Yes	No
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Immigration

Between 6 to 9 million undocumented people are estimated to be living and working in the United States. In 1986, undocumented immigrants were allowed to apply for legal residency. A coalition of labor, business, and immigration rights advocates are urging Congress and the President to do the same this year. Do you support such efforts?

Yes	No	Yes	No
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Drug War

The US is spending hundreds of millions of dollars to eradicate coca production in Colombia (including parts of the Amazon) through the aerial spraying of crops with chemicals that are believed to cause human health and environmental damage. Do you support this approach?

Yes	No	Yes	No
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Healthcare

More than 100 million people in the United States suffer from serious diseases such as diabetes and Parkinson's. Many scientists believe that embryonic stem cell research offers the best opportunity to discover better treatments and cures for those diseases. This research is opposed by some who believe using embryonic stem cells is immoral and unethical. Do you believe the federal government should fund such research?

Yes	No	Yes	No
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Housing

Currently, 5.4 million families are classified as having "worst case housing needs," which means they pay more than half of their income to live in substandard housing. Would you support legislation to create a \$26 billion National Housing Trust Fund to build affordable housing for low- and middle-income families and expand access to rental housing?

Yes	No	Yes	No
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Veterans

The Veterans Administration is proposing to consolidate health care services in Chicago by closing in-patient care at the VA's Lakeside Medical Center and reducing the number of beds at West Side Medical Center. Under this plan, West Side Medical Center would be the only veterans' hospital in the city of Chicago. Do you support this proposal?

Yes	No	Yes	No
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COMMENTS:

To speed your response, please fill out the survey on our website: <http://www.house.gov/schakowsky/>

Your e-mail address:

Identify how you wish to view the Survey results:

☐ Via Website ☐ Via E-mail ☐ Via Postal

Fighting for Consumers and Public Health

Battling Big Oil for Affordable Energy



Jan with Democratic leader Gephardt and others calling on Big Oil to give consumers price relief at the gas pump.

For two years, 9th District consumers have been hit with higher gasoline and natural gas bills, while big oil and gas companies reap exorbitant profits. A Federal Trade Commission investigation done at my request found that oil companies held back gasoline supplies to drive up prices in Chicago last summer. That's why I:

- have repeatedly urged President Bush to call on big oil and big gas, as well as the oil producing nations, to bring prices down;
- requested that the U.S. General Accounting Office investigate this winter's high natural gas prices;
- support increased investments in renewable energy sources, including wind and solar, and higher efficiency standards for cars and SUVs; and
- oppose drilling in the Great Lakes and environmentally sensitive areas like the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge in Alaska.

Keeping Our Children Healthy and Safe

As a mother and grandmother, I believe that every child deserves quality healthcare. And no parent should have to worry about the air their children breathe or the water they drink. That's why I:

- helped overturn President Bush's decision to weaken food safety standards for school lunches;
- joined 218 House members in July to vote to reinstate the tougher standard for arsenic at 10 parts per billion in drinking water recommended by the National Academy of Sciences. In his first month in office, the President signed an Executive Order rescinding those tougher guidelines. High arsenic levels in drinking water particularly threaten children.
- Support efforts to expand access to healthcare coverage for children through legislation like the Family Opportunity Act, H.R. 600, that allows families with disabled children to buy into Medicaid and the Legal Immigrant Children's Health Improvement Act, H.R. 1143.



Putting Our Family Needs First

First Things First

In the short time since Congress enacted President Bush's \$1.7 trillion plus tax cut, we are already facing the consequences: the threat to the Medicare and Social Security Trust Funds and the inability to adequately fund education, housing, prescription coverage for seniors under Medicare and other critical needs.

No family would say they have a surplus if they can't pay for healthcare, provide education for their children, or be assured of adequate retirement income. Yet we, the American family, have decided to provide massive tax cuts, mostly for the wealthy, without first meeting those critical needs.

Undoing the Damage

It is not too late to put family needs first and undo the damage. According to an analysis by Citizens for Tax Justice, four out of five taxpayers will receive the majority of their tax breaks from changes that occur this year. After 2001, more than half of the remaining tax cuts would benefit the top one-percent of taxpayers, the wealthiest among us. We should not allow those cuts that disproportionately benefit the wealthy to take effect until we've first addressed the needs of the majority of Americans.

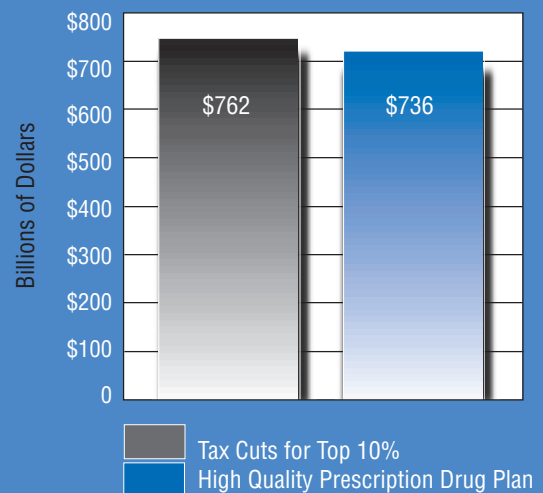
That's why I've introduced the **Family Needs First Act**, which puts a moratorium on eliminating the estate tax and any additional cuts to the top income tax bracket until we:

1. Assure the American public that doing so will not jeopardize Social Security or Medicare or force cuts in benefits.
2. Add a comprehensive prescription drug benefit under Medicare.
3. Provide full funding to modernize schools and add 100,000 teachers.
4. Significantly reduce the number of Americans with "worst case" housing needs.



Jan speaks with students from Lincoln Jr. High School in Skokie about education funding. By investing \$282 billion, students can learn from quality teachers in smaller classes and modern schools. Instead Congress passed President Bush's tax cut that delivers \$507 billion to the wealthiest 1% over ten years.

Tax Cuts for the Top 10% vs. a High Quality Prescription Drug Plan for Seniors



Congresswoman Jan Schakowsky
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Washington, D.C. 20515

(Record E-mail Address on Survey Page)

Your Return Address:

Please
Place
Stamp
Here



Dear Friend:

Hearing your views on important issues pending before Congress is very important to me. That is why I am attaching this questionnaire which will help me better represent you in Congress.

You may also access the questionnaire via the 9th Congressional District website at: www.house.gov/schakowsky/ Otherwise, fill out the enclosed survey, refold it tightly with my Washington address on the outside, affix a stamp and mail your opinion. Please remember to check how you wish to receive the results.

I would also appreciate your comments on these and other issues that you wish to bring to my attention.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Jan Schakowsky

This mailing was prepared, published and mailed at taxpayer expense.

YOUR VOICE IN WASHINGTON

Congresswoman **JAN Schakowsky**

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M.C.
ECRWSS

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